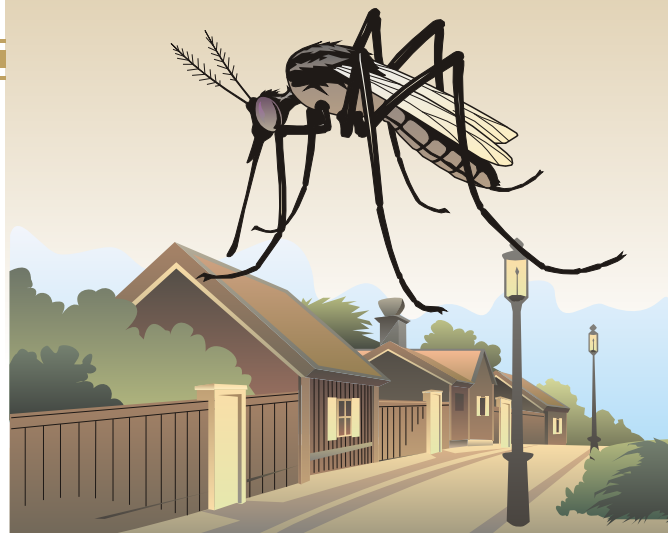


The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH announces its annual campaign to monitor the presence of WEST NILE and other mosquito-borne viruses. West Nile Virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is mainly an infection of birds. On rare occasions an infected mosquito may spread the virus to a human. In human infections the virus generally causes no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms, and is rarely severe.

Senior citizens and those with suppressed immune systems are most vulnerable. These residents are encouraged to stay indoors at dawn, dusk or when mosquitoes are more active.

When persons are outdoors, or, during periods when mosquitoes are active, they should wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and apply insect repellent with DEET™ to exposed skin according to manufacturer's directions. For children, use a product with a DEET™ concentration of less than 30%. Persons with a severe illness should seek medical attention promptly.

WEST NILE VIRUS



CONTROL EFFORTS

The District has an extensive larviciding program to kill mosquito larva before they become biting adults. This will not eliminate all mosquitoes but will reduce the numbers. Larviciding is very effective in preventing the spread of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne viruses.

TIPS FOR ELIMINATING BREEDING SITES AROUND THE HOME

1. Dispose of cans, bottles, and plastic containers. Store items to be recycled in covered trash cans or sealed bags.
2. Eliminate discarded tires. Drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
3. Place lids tightly on garbage cans to prevent water from collecting.
4. Flush birdbaths and the bottom of potted plant holder trays twice a week.
5. Clean leaves and debris from gutters.
6. Remove standing water from beneath air conditioners.
7. Store pet food and water bowls indoors when not in use.
8. Treat areas such as fishponds that cannot be drained with mosquito "dunks". Dunks contain bacteria, which will kill mosquito larva. Dunks will not harm fish.

For More Information Please Call: (202) 535-2323
or See the DOH Website: www.dchealth.dc.gov



Government of the District of Columbia
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor